

1                   4. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1 further  
2 comprising a pressure control means, which connects a cuff chamber defined by  
3 said cuff to the atmosphere when the pressure therein exceeds a predefined  
4 overpressure.

1                   5. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said  
2 pressure control means comprises an outlet valve forming an overpressure outlet for  
3 said cuff, said overpressure outlet being open, except when said pressure generator  
4 pressurizes said cuff.

1                   6. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said  
2 pressure control means comprises a restrictor in a conduit between said pressure  
3 generator and said cuff, and an outlet valve with a stopper, which, in a first  
4 position, releases an outlet to the atmosphere, and, in a second position, blocks said  
5 outlet, said stopper assuming these positions as a function of the difference in  
6 pressure between an inlet and an outlet of said restrictor.

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cont*

1                   7. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1 further  
2 comprising a controller which switches said pressure generator ON/OFF, thereby  
3 pressurizing said cuff with a defined or definable pressure amplitude and a defined  
4 or definable repetition frequency.

1                   8. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 7, wherein said  
2 controller is designed to vary said pressure amplitude and/or repetition frequency.

1                   9. (Twice Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
2 a measured overpressure of said cuff, compared to atmospheric pressure, ranges  
3 between 20 mm Hg and 100 mm Hg.

1                   10. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said  
2 cuff is pressurized 1 to 10 times per min.

1                   11. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein, said cuff is  
2 pressurized 1 to 15 times per 5 min.

*12. (Amended) The device as set forth in claim 1 further comprising  
2 means for uncoupling said pressure generator from said cuff.*

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Enclosures

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